

risk. These new layers of redtape would especially be harmful in their impact on the price of electricity, raising costs for small businesses and forcing them to lay off employees.

In Illinois we could see electricity prices rise as much as 18 percent, a huge burden on small businesses already struggling to keep their doors open. Time and again, I've heard from small businesses in my district who are concerned about this regulatory onslaught.

But House Republicans are not standing idly by. With bipartisan support, we've passed a half-dozen pieces of legislation that would rein in the EPA and help protect American jobs.

Unfortunately, as with so many of the bills that we've passed to create jobs and spur economic growth, the Senate has refused to act. Perhaps another reminder of what is at stake will finally spur them to action.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, let me get this straight. My good friends on the Republican side are really interested in cutting taxes for the wealthy, but when it comes to maybe cutting the taxes that students would be paying on the student loans that they have by \$1,000 more a year, they're not nearly so interested.

Well, let me read to you a posting to my Facebook from a young woman that really hits home. She wrote:

Going to college was the worst decision of my life. I hate to say it, but it's true. I did everything right. I graduated high school early, at the top of my class. I got all my core courses out of the way at community college, then transferred to a 4-year college, but I couldn't afford it and had to stop just before my last year. It's the biggest regret of my life that I couldn't afford college. I'm not lazy, I'm not stupid, but I had the misfortune of being born poor.

Madam Speaker, it's time for us to make sure that the poor students in our country have the right to go to college and to see it as a good decision, not a wrong decision.

CONGRATULATING TWO PLANO HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recent victories of two Plano high school teams: the 2012 Plano West girls soccer State champions and the 2012 Plano Senior High School WorldQuest National Champions.

Last weekend, the Plano West girls soccer team defeated Katy Seven Lakes, earning the school its fifth State title. Under first-year Coach Carley Phillips, who won the school a

state title in 2002, the soccer program has excelled and continued in its success.

And last month, the Plano Senior High School's WorldQuest team successfully defended its national championship title. For the second year in a row, this team placed first in the national academic competition that tests high school students' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, and culture.

Congratulations to these two stellar teams. That's the way to represent the great State of Texas. God bless you, and I salute you.

EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, in these tough economic times, it's critical that Congress work to make quality higher education available to all Americans. We know that investing in education is an investment in our future, an investment in the strength of America.

By the year 2018, 63 percent of all American jobs will require some level of higher education. Sadly, if Congress does not act soon, the interest rate for student loans will double from 3.4 to 6.8, higher than home loans. This will cause thousands of dollars in new debt for more than 7.4 million American students.

Unfortunately, the Republicans in Congress have refused to go forward with legislation that would prevent this crisis. And some Republican leaders have openly criticized students who graduate with college debt.

It's time that Congress worked together to help middle class families, not just the wealthiest few. We must pass legislation that strengthens the Pell program and prevents an increase in student loan rates.

Thank you, President Obama, for taking the lead in helping our future generations and leaders of tomorrow.

ANNUAL AUDITS FOR THE GSA

(Mr. DENHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to talk about the corruption, the fraud, the waste within GSA, an agency that has nearly a \$10 billion slush fund that they hide from the American taxpayers every single year.

Today I'm going to be introducing a bill that will request transparency on an annual basis, show an annual audit so the American taxpayers can see exactly where this waste is going and hold this agency accountable.

We're going to hold another hearing on the issue to make sure that the waste stops, and that we actually start selling off some of the buildings that are sitting vacant right now today, an opportunity for Republicans and Demo-

crats to actually come together, just getting rid of waste, and at the same time that we sell the properties and redevelop the things that we aren't using, put people back to work.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was observed last week on April 19. The theme of this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day was "Choosing to Act," offering an important reminder of the sacredness of human life and the need for all of us to stand against evil.

The Holocaust represents one of the darkest periods in human history and illustrates the worst of human behavior, yet some still deny the events of the Holocaust ever occurred. It is no wonder that Israel is extremely concerned with the development of nuclear weapons in Iran, putting these arms in the hands of radicals who have shown no respect for human life or basic human rights.

We must support and stand by Israel during these dangerous times. We must always keep in the back of our minds the history of the Jewish people. Understanding their history helps us understand their concerns and feelings about what is currently going on in the world.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day we are reminded that the Jewish people have had firsthand experience with true evil, and we must work to ensure that such atrocities do not happen again.

KEEP THEM ON THE FARM

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the regulators are going after America's farms. Now they are considering prohibiting kids from working on farms. Growing up on a farm teaches kids valuable lessons and a strong work ethic.

Now the Federal Government is contemplating prohibiting kids from doing chores on their uncle's farm, including "the storing, marketing, and transporting of farm product raw materials."

According to the Department of Labor, "prohibited places of employment would include county grain elevators, grain bins, feedlots, stockyards, and livestock exchanges."

Anyone under 16 would not be allowed to drive any type of power equipment, including tractors. So if the farmer wants to hire a young boy to help him move some hay, it'd be a crime?

People who know nothing about farms are trying to stop educating our future farmers, because a lot of these